

Amendment dated 10/14/05
Reply to 07/14/05 Office Action
S.N. 10/660,316 Docket No. 0335

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A product carrying and storage device comprising:
 - a) a bag having a substantially rectangularly shaped opening at a top portion thereof and ~~at least~~ first and second handles attached to said bag adjacent to said opening at respective first and second sides of said opening; and
 - b) a bag topper having a bottom panel and four side panels defining a substantially rectangularly shaped opening sized to receive said top portion of said bag and thereby substantially close said opening of said bag in an assembled condition of said bag and topper, said topper having first and second slotted handle openings along at least two sides of said bottom panel defining corresponding first and second elongated guide flaps adjacent respective said first and second slotted handle openings for receiving respective said ~~at least~~ first and second handles in said assembled condition.
2. (currently amended) The device described in claim 1 wherein said bag has front and rear panel members and a pair of gusseted side panel members connecting said front and rear panel members and a ~~flat-style folded~~ bottom panel member connected to said front and rear panel members and said side panel members, said side panel members being foldable to a substantially flat folded storage condition for wherein said front and said rear panel members and said bottom panel member ~~are substantially parallel~~.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The device described in claim 2 3 wherein said bag is made from paper and said topper is made from cardboard.

Amendment dated 10/14/05
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S.N. 10/660,316 Docket No. 0335

5. (currently amended) The device described in claim 2 3 wherein said bag has two handles and said topper has two handle openings.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) The device described in claim 2 3 wherein said topper is formed from a single sheet of material having marginal portions around the perimeter thereof being foldable to form said side panels and wherein each of two said side panels includes two flaps that are foldable and attachable to respective adjacent said side panels to define said rectangularly shaped opening of said topper.
8. (currently amended) The device described in claim 7 wherein said first and second slotted handle openings are defined in said single sheet of material by partial cuts along at least two sides of said bottom member.
9. (withdrawn) A method of forming and using a product carrying and storage device comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a bag having front and rear panel members and a pair of side panel members attached to a bottom panel member, said front, rear and side panel members defining a substantially rectangularly shaped opening at a top end of said bag, and having at least one handle attached to said front and rear panel members of said bag;
 - b) providing a topper having front and rear panels and a pair of side panels attached to a top panel, said front, rear and side panels defining a substantially rectangularly shaped opening for receiving said top end of said bag, and having handle openings defined in said top panel for receiving a respective said handle; and
 - c) inserting said at least one handle through respective said handle openings of said topper to define an assembled condition of said topper and said bag.
10. (withdrawn) The method described in claim 9 wherein prior to said inserting step the method further comprises the step of placing a product into said bag.

Amendment dated 10/14/05
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S.N. 10/660,316 Docket No. 0335

11. (withdrawn) The method described in claim 10 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

- a) removing said topper from said bag by pulling said topper off of said handles; and
- b) inverting said topper so that said top panel is located beneath said front and rear panels and said side panels of said topper to define a tray having a bottom defined by said top panel; and
- c) using said topper as a tray for said product in said bag.